lie scrawls on a piece of paper are taken on trust, handed to a chemist, and the medicine given in exchange swallowed without question. In the capacity of doctors asking only to be allowed to heal a sick country, Government candidates approached the electorate. Whether they would prescribe ice-packs or a hot-water bottle, a low or a nourishing diet, was dependent on the circumstances of the case. Perhaps tariffs might be required, perhaps not. Mr. Neville Chamberlain had an open mind on the subject, so had Sir Herbert Samuel. They all had open minds.

A general election is at all times an astonishing spectacle. All, even the unemployed and inmates of public institutions, become ladies and gentlemen for the occasion. Old, forgotten people are fetched out into the light of day, and respectfully escorted to polling booths. Lordly motor-cars, be-ribboned, make their appearance in bleak streets, and are loaded with those whom, ordinarily, they hoot insolently out of their way. Canvassers circulate—resonant ladies in tweed costumes, young men with parliamentary or B.B.C. aspirations—knocking at unfamiliar doors, and ingratiating as salesmen when their knocks are answered. At street corners voices are raised above the traffic's noise; in school-rooms, blackboards still bearing traces of the day's lessons, voters assemble, seat themselves at desks, and hear a candidate's solicitations. For a little while, the humble and meek are exalted, and filled, if not with good things, sometimes with free refreshment. Authority bends in obeisance to its source, like a proud king momentarily humbling himself before

an ancestral shrine; then soon straightens again and continues as before. When their victory has been announced, lawyers wearing rosettes are carried shoulder-high, like heroes, to the accompaniment of not very uproarious cheers, and then are rarely seen until their constituents' votes must again be solicited.

The Doctor's Mandate general election proceeded like others before it. In most cases the addition of'National' to a candidate's previous designation, made little difference to the electoral